

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TAIPEI 07459 01 OF 02 200930Z

12

ACTION EA-09

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EB-07 /073 W

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R 200845Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7658

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TAIPEI 7459

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, ECON, MILI, TW, US, CH

SUBJECT: MID-AUTUMN PERSPECTIVE

REF: TAIPEI 7250

1. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: IN RECENT WEEKS THE LOCAL MOOD HAS BEEN LARGELY SET BY VISITS: BY SECRETARY KISSINGER TO THE PRC AND PRESIDENT FORD'S APPROACHING VISIT, BY AMERICANS AND OTHERS TO TAIWAN, AND BY GROC OFFICIALS TO THIRD COUNTRIES. OF THESE, THE VISITS TO PEKING BY THE SECRETARY AND THE PRESIDENT CONTINUE TO DRAW THE MOST INTEREST HERE. AT THE SAME TIME THE PAST FEW WEEKS HAVE SEEN THE RECURRENCE OF VARIOUS CONDITIONING THEMES, WITH A FEW NEW AND POTENTIALLY HELPFUL TWISTS ADDED. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCOUNTS OF KISSINGER'S TRIP TO THE PRC AND POSTPONEMENT OF THE ADVANCE PARTY'S DEPARTURE PROMPTED SPECULATION

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TAIPEI 07459 01 OF 02 200930Z

THAT US/PRC RELATIONS WERE COOLING AND THAT THE PRESIDENT'S

VISIT MIGHT BE POSTPONED. FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DATES FOR PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT, SPECULATION SHIFTED TO WHAT THE TRIP CAN (OR CANNOT) ACCOMPLISH AND TO THE TYPE OF WELCOME THE PRESIDENT WILL RECEIVE IN PEKING.

3. THE GROC, THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ISSUED A FIRM BUT LOW-KEY STATEMENT OPPOSING US/PRC NEGOTIATIONS BUT LEFT MORE EMOTIONAL COMMENTS TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND OTHER POLITICALLY LESS SIGNIFICANT BODIES. WHILE NO ONE HERE SUPPORTS THE VISIT, MOST REMAIN RELATIVELY EQUABLE ABOUT ITS OUTCOME, ALTHOUGH MANY INTERPRET RECENT EVENTS (SUCH AS SHIFTS IN THE U.S. CABINET) AS A SIGNAL THAT U.S. DETENTE POLICY WILL CONTINUE.

4. MEANWHILE THE PRESS HAS CONTINUED TO PLAY UP "EVIDENCE" OF U.S. SUPPORT, SUCH AS STATEMENTS BY SENATOR GOLDWATER AND CONGRESSMAN CLEVELAND AND THE STEADILY GROWING SPONSORSHIP IN THE HOUSE OF A PRO-ROC RESOLUTION. EDITORIALS CONTINUED TO WARN THE U.S. OF THE DANGERS OF NEGOTIATING WITH THE PRC AND URGED PRESIDENT FORD TO VISIT THE ROC. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE LOW-CIRCULATION ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CHINA NEWS, WHILE SUGGESTING FORD VISIT TAIWAN, MADE THE UNUSUAL OBSERVATION THAT "DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND FORMAL RECOGNITION ARE NOT THE END AND ALL OF A NATION'S EXISTENCE. VIABILITY COMES FIRST."

5. LIEN HO PAO AND CHUNG KUO SHIH PAO, THE TWO LARGEST CIRCULATION NEWSPAPERS, BOTH CARRIED (ALBEIT NOT PROMINENTLY) SECRETARY KISSINGER'S CATEGORICAL "NO" TO THE QUESTION OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SIMULTANEOUS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE PRC AND THE ROC. THE TRANSLATION OF THE SECRETARY'S RESPONSE (PU KO NENG -- IMPOSSIBLE) IS EVEN MORE FORCEFUL THAN THE ENGLISH AND IF IT RESULTS IN A MORE REALISTIC APPRAISAL LOCALLY OF WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS, COULD BECOME A HELPFUL ELEMENT IN THE CONDITIONING PROCESS.

6. MORE CONVENTIONAL CONDITIONING THEMES ALSO RECURRED, INCLUDING THAT OF MILITARY SELF-RELIANCE. DURING A RECENT INTERPELLATION AT THE LEGISLATIVE YUAN (LY), THE GROC NOTED THAT INDEPENDENCE AND SELF-RELIANCE BEGIN WITH LOCAL MANU-
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PAGE 03 TAIPEI 07459 01 OF 02 200930Z

FACTURING OF ARMS AND THAT ROC EFFORTS IN THIS AREA WILL CONTINUE. ON A RELATED THEME, THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF CHUNG HUA MAGAZINE CARRIED AN ARTICLE BY AN OVERSEAS CHINESE WHICH COMMENTED THAT SINCE TAIWAN IS STRONGER THAN IT WAS IN 1950, THE MUTUAL DEFENSE TREATY IS NOT TOO IMPORTANT. EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO ELIMINATE PSYCHOLOGICAL DEPENDENCE ON THE TREATY SO THAT THE POPULACE WILL BE BETTER PREPARED WHEN THE U.S. AND THE ROC SEVER DIPLOMATIC TIES. THE MAGAZINE

DOES NOT HAVE A LARGE CIRCULATION; BUT AS A POLITICALLY ORIENTED PERIODICAL, ITS READERSHIP INCLUDES AT LEAST SOME OF THOSE WHO ARE CONCERNED ABOUT SUCH ISSUES AND MAY THEREFORE BE OF ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE IN FURTHERING THE CONDITIONING PROCESS.

7. LOCALLY IT WAS ALSO A TIME OF VISITS. DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER ALONE MORE THAN 93,000 TOURISTS VISITED TAIWAN, AN INCREASE OF NEARLY FIFTEEN PERCENT OVER OCTOBER 1974. JAPANESE TOURISTS TOPPED THE LIST, ACCOUNTING FOR WELL OVER A THIRD OF THE TOTAL. HOWEVER, MOST PRESS ATTENTION WAS GIVEN TO THE AMERICAN VISITORS, INCLUDING CONGRESSMAN CLEVELAND, THE SOUTH CAROLINA TRADE AND INVESTMENT MISSION, AND ESPECIALLY BILLY GRAHAM. DESPITE HEAVY RAINS GRAHAM'S FIVE-DAY CRUSADE FROM OCTOBER 29 TO NOVEMBER 2 REPORTEDLY DREW A TOTAL AUDIENCE OF 255,000, INCLUDING THE PREMIER ON THE LAST DAY, AND COLLECTIONS TOTALED SEVEN MILLION NT.

8. SOME 20,000 OVERSEAS CHINESE VISITORS DURING OCTOBER ALSO CAME IN FOR PUBLICITY, AND THE PREMIER REPORTEDLY HAS RECENTLY INSTRUCTED RELEVANT AGENCIES TO INCREASE EFFORTS TO ASSIST OVERSEAS CHINESE IN ORDER TO SOLIDIFY THE STRUGGLE AGAINST COMMUNISM.

9. ALSO COMING IN FOR PUBLIC NOTE WERE CONTACTS WITH MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES INCLUDING VISITS BY CHIEF OF STAFF LAI MING-TANG AND GENERAL GHIANG WEI-KUO TO JORDAN AND A VISIT TO THE ROC BY JORDAN'S MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION, A "PRIVATE" VISIT BY LIBYA'S MINISTER OF INTERIOR, AND GROC ANNOUNCEMENTS THAT IT WILL STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH OMAN AND SAUDI ARABIA.

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 07459 02 OF 02 200938Z

12
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TAIPEI 7459

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

10. LOCALLY, IT HAS ALSO BEEN A TIME OF DEDICATING STAUES.
RECENT WEEKS HAVE SEEN THE DEDICATION OF THREE STATUES IN
COMMEMORATION OF "TAIWANESE PATRIOTS" IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST
THE CHING DYNASTY AND JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF TAIWAN: ON
RETROCESSION DAY THE PREMIER IN TAICHUNG UNVEILED A BRONZE
BUST OF THE FIRST CHAIRMAN OF THE TAIWANESE COMMITTEE OF
THE KMT; TAIPEI MAYOR CHANG FENG-SHU UNVEILED A STATUE IN
HONOR OF ONE OF THE END-OF-THE-CENTURY LEADERS (ACTUALLY A
MAINLANDER) OF THE ABORTIVE REPUBLIC OF TAIWAN (ROT); AND
GOVERNOR HSIEH TUNG-MIN PRESIDED AT THE UNVEILING IN YUNLIN
COUNTY OF A STATUE IN HONOR OF A YUNLIN NATIVE WHO WAS
ARRESTED AND EXECUTED BY THE JAPANESE BECAUSE OF HIS UNDER-
GROUND ACTIVITIES. IN UNVEILING THE FIRST STATUE, THE
PREMIER DECLARED THAT "THE KMT AND PEOPLE OF TAIWAN...BELONG
TO ONE FAMILY THROUGH THICK AND THIN," AND REMINDED THOSE
ATTENDING THAT THE KMT AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENT HAD STRUGGLED
FOR TAIWAN'S RETROCESSION TO CHINA, AND URGED THEM TO MAKE
THE SAME EFFORT TO LIBERATE COMPATRIOTS ON THE MAINLAND.
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PAGE 02 TAIPEI 07459 02 OF 02 200938Z

THE MESSAGE IN ALL THIS WAS CLEAR; BOTH TAIWANESE AND MAIN-
LANDERS HAVE A SHARED HISTORY AND COMMON ACHIEVEMENTS IN
WHICH THEY CAN TAKE PRIDE.

11. ALTHOUGH REGISTRATION FOR LY ELECTIONS ARE NOW CLOSED
AND CAMPAIGNING IS BEGINNING, THERE STILL APPEARS TO BE
LITTLE LOCAL INTEREST IN THE VARIOUS CONTESTS. THE ARREST
OF PROSPECTIVE CANDIDATE PAI YA-TSAN (SEE REFTTEL), WHILE
WELL-KNOWN AMONG AMONG THOSE POLITICALLY AWARE, HAS FAILED TO
ATTRACT ANY WIDESPREAD INTEREST. EVEN AMONG ESTABLISHED
OPPOSITIONISTS WE DETECT NO SENSE OF SURPRISE, AND ONLY
LIMITED CONCERN.

12. TAIWAN POLITICAL REVIEW CONTINUES TO PUBLISH, AND IN
ITS LATEST ISSUE TOUCHED UPON QUESTIONS OF THE FORD VISIT
TO PEKING, TAIWAN'S FUTURE, THE LY ELECTIONS, FREEDOM OF
THE PRESS, AND OTHER SENSITIVE ISSUES. RECENT ESTIMATES OF
ITS CIRCULATION RANGE FROM 16,000 TO 20,000 WHICH, IF TRUE,

WOULD MAKE TPR ONE OF THE MOST WIDELY READ PERIODICAL EVER
TO APPEAR ON TAIWAN.

13. THE ECONOMY APPEARS TO BE TAKING THE FIRST STEPS TOWARDS
RECOVERY, WITH A MODEST GROWTH RATE FOR THE YEAR PREDICTED.
BUT A FEW THREATENING CLOUDS REMAIN ON THE HORIZON: JANUARY-
OCTOBER FOREIGN AND OVERSEAS INVESTMENT APPROVALS WERE WELL
BELOW THE VOLUME FOR THE SAME PERIOD IN 1974; ALSO, ACCORDING
TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ECONOMIC PLANNING COUNCIL, EXPORTS
IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER WERE BELOW THE LEVEL OF THE PRECED-
ING THREE MONTHS. HOWEVER, PRELIMINARY FIGURES FOR OCTOBER
INDICATE SOME IMPROVEMENT.

14. THE CRIME RATE, ESPECIALLY AMONG JUVENILES, APPEARS TO
BE STEADILY RISING. A RECENT ESTIMATE CONCLUDED THAT EIGHTEEN
PERCENT OF TAIPEI'S YOUTH ARE "PRONE TO COMMITTING CRIMES."
INCREASING CONCERN HAS ALSO BEEN GIVEN TO THE QUESTION OF
TRAFFIC DISORDER IN TAIPEI, ESPECIALLY THE ERRATIC DRIVING
OF YOUNG MOTORCYCLISTS. URBANIZATION, WITH ALL OF ITS DIS-
ADVANTAGES, IS HERE TO STAY AND IS LIKELY TO BECOME A GROW-
ING FOCUS OF LOCAL CONCERN IN THE FUTURE. THE EMBASSY WILL
HAVE A DAILY REMINDER OF THIS AS WORK STARTED THIS WEEK ON
THE NORTH GATE OVERPASS WHICH FOR THE NEXT 18 MONTHS WILL
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PAGE 03 TAIPEI 07459 02 OF 02 200938Z

MAKE ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES MORE CHANCY AND CHAOTIC THAN
EVER.
UNGER

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